

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 01496 091821Z
ACTION CA-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN
SUBJECT: WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN CONSULAR CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 200245

FOLLOWING TOPICS WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE TO
CONAKRY CONSULAR FUNCTION:

A. GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS FACED IN CONVINCING PRIVATE
INTERNATIONAL FIRMS OPERATING IN RADICAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES
OF NECESSITY TO PROMPTLY INFORM U.S. CONSULAR OFFICERS OF ARREST,
DEATH, DISAPPEARANCE, OR RELATED PROBLEM AFFECTED U.S. CITIZEN
EMPLOYEES OF THAT FIRM. OUR EXPERPCNCE HAS GENERALLY BEEN THAT
FIRMS ARE RELUCTANT TO "GET THE GOVERNMENT INVOLVED" AND PREFER
TO KEEP THINGS QUIET, HOPING COMPANY CAN WORK THINGS OUT PRIV-
ATELY WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT. OFTEN MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL OF THESE
COMPANIES ARE DIFFERENT NATIONALITY THAN U.S. CITIZEN IN
TROUBLE, FURTHER ADDING TO RELUCTANCE TO INFORM U.S. GOVERNMENT
DUE TO POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES, FEAR OF HUMAN RIGHTS "FANATICISM",
OR MISCONCEPTIONS REGARDING CONSULAR ROLE.

B. SUBJECT OF EXTENT TO WHICH U.S. CONSULAR OFFICER SHOULD
ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR CITIZENS OF COUNTRIES UNREPRESENTED
LOCALLY WHERE OFFICIAL LEGAL AGREEMENT ASSIGNING U.S.
REPRESENTATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES DOES NOT EXIST. TYPICALLY,
CANADIAN, BRITISH, PHILIPPINES, OR LATIN AMERICAN CITIZEN
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WILL TURN TO U.S. CONSUL IN ABSENCE OF HIS OWN REPRESENT-
ATIVE IN SMALL AFRICAN POSTS. WHAT IS BUREAU'S VIEW OF
SUCH UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, MORAL OR
OTHERWISE?

C. WHAT IS CONSULAR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS LONG-TERM U.S.
CITIZEN LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO DO NOT PLANTO RETURN TO U.S.
BUT OCCASIONALLY SEEK CONSULAR SERVICES WHEN THEY DEEM THEM

BENEFICIAL PERSONALLY? IN SUCH CASES PEOPLE IN QUESTION ARE
OFTEN BENEFITTING FROM U.S. CONSULAR PRESENCE TO CIRCUMVENT
LOCAL LAWS AND PRACTICES TO WHICH THEY AS DUAL CITIZENS AND
PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF LOCAL COUNTRY ARE SUBJECT. ARE WE
BEING "USED" BY SUCH PEOPLE, WHOSE DECISION TO LEAVE U.S. WAS
OFTEN BASED ON STRONGLY FELT ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENTS AND WHOSE
ACTIONS LOCALLY ARE ANYTHING BUT SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. POLICIES
AND PRINCIPLES?
CROSBY

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